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Union Mutualista Boneriano invites



The Union Mutualista Boneriano together with the Comision Celebracion dia di Boneiro extends a personal invitation to all its members to come and celebrate Bonaire Day. The big celebration will be tomorrow, September 9. The event starts with a mass at the Santa Theresita Church in San Nicolas at 8:30 a.m. with a blessing for all Mutualista Boneriano members. Afterwards there will be the protocol event at the Bonaire Club and coffee will be served to all.

At 12 noon the celebration continues with music and dancing. Three members will be honored for their hard work and dedication to the club. There will be a large assortment of typical Bonairean food and a well stock bar for refreshment.

In the afternoon there will be the customary 'wapa-mento' (dancing) in the streets of San Nicolas.

Everyone is invited to assist to this grand celebration.

Aruba is the 'case study' in a Berlin Climate Conference

ORANJESTAD -- During a two-day visit to Aruba, Peter Boyd, COO of the Carbon War Room together with Patrick Doherty of the New America Foundation, spent time talking to the Aruba government and other interest groups here. The conversations centered on Aruba's quest for going totally 'green' by 2020 as one of the first economies of the world to be totally 'green.'

When asked why choose Aruba for such a noble project, Boyd responded by saying that the Carbon War Room exists by bringing productive solutions on a high level with respect to climate change. And, that they are looking for pioneers to show us the way. What they saw in Aruba, apparently, is an extra ordinary opportunity for islands to be

converted into nations revolving solely on renewable energy and to do away with combustible fossil fuels. They were looking for an island that is taking the lead in this and that has the vision to achieve this objective. They consider Aruba to be a good example and such an island.

Boyd said..."We are convinced that Aruba is going to be the first completely green economy in the world. We said this publically at the Rio+20 Conference. And, we will be working hard to achieve this."

Aruba is already very famous, according to Peter Boyd, and ... "after that the Carbon War Room has been here to begin the work on sustainable energy, Aruba will become even more famous and



Peter Boyd

the entire world will hear about us."

Continued on page 5

US to blacklist Haqqani militants despite Pakistan fears

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States yesterday moved to blacklist the Pakistan-linked Haqqani network as a terrorist group, blamed for bloody attacks in Afghanistan, despite concerns about straining ties with Islamabad.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said she had filed a report as required ahead of a Sunday deadline set by Congress to determine whether the Haqqani network could be branded a terrorist group.

"Today, I have sent a report to Congress saying that the Haqqani Network meets the statutory criteria of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) for designation as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO)," Clinton said.

Founded by Jalaluddin Haqqani, a CIA asset turned Al-Qaeda ally who was also close to Pakistani intelligence, the Haqqani network is probably the most dangerous faction in the Afghan Taliban.

Clinton, who is in Vladivostok for an Asia-Pacific

summit, told US lawmakers she would now press ahead with the designation, which will make it a crime in the United States to provide the Haqqanis with any material support, and freeze any of their property or interests in the US.

The United States blames the Haqqani network for some of the most spectacular attacks in Afghanistan, such as a 2011 siege on the US embassy and, in 2009, the deadliest attack on

the CIA in 25 years.

"The Haqqani network represents a significant threat to US national security, and we will continue our aggressive military action against this threat," said Pentagon spokesman George Little, welcoming Clinton's decision.

He added the move would also press Pakistan, where Haqqani leaders are believed to be sheltering, into taking action.



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Affected Urirama residents' campaign



Urirama residents in Noord who will be affected by the wind mill Project in Urirama are inviting the general public of Aruba to express their support by way of signing a petition. They have organized a day for receiving the signatures of citizens all across the island.

The signing day is:
 Saturday September 8th (Today)

From 8:00 o'clock in the morning until 12 noon and again from 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon to 6:00 in the afternoon.

Where to go to place your signature?

- Superfood
- Kong Hing
- Certified Supermarket

- Cheng's Supermarket (Noord)
- Mundo Nobo (Sta. Cruz)
- Hong Kong (Paradera)

Why support the signing?

Your signature is very important; it signifies that together as a nation we can STOP

To help prevent the risks that this wind mill project will have on the more than 900 Urirama residents.

Stop the destruction of our nature in the Urirama area, which is legally a protected area.

The group of residents in the area is convinced, based on credible research by both American and Dutch organizations, that the health and well being of the residents in Noord will be greatly affected by the

energy frequency these mills will generate.

The damage done by the low frequency produced is called 'Wind Turbine Syndrome.'

'Wind Turbine Syndrome' has been scientifically proven to cause among others:

- cardio-vascular problems (heart problems)
- loss of balance
- damage to the nervous system
- depression
- insomnia (sleeplessness)
- migraine
- panic attacks
- epileptic attacks

Don't listen to the nay sayers who may be politically motivated to believe that there is no problem with the windmills at Urirama. It is not without reason that the Dutch government in Holland has put an abrupt stop to all wind mill projects throughout the Netherlands. It is not without reason that Germany has stopped setting up windmill parks and has gone over completely to solar and other sources of renewable energy. The scientific evidence is on the table, and these governments do not want to be guilty of inflicting damage to their citizens! So, wise up and be realistic and stop the naivety and join the effort to stop this atrocity to the lives of innocent people will love.

Stars of the Industry Aruba visiting Curacao



Aruba Employee of the year- Mr. Melvin Tromp and Supervisor of the year - Mr. Jhoanel Caraballo

This week, CHATA welcomed the Employee of the year from Aruba Mr. Melvin Tromp and the Supervisor of the year Mr. Jhoanel Caraballo to the island of Curacao for a four-day visit in relation to the "Stars of the Industry Exchange" program.

In 2009 CHATA initiated the "Stars of the Industry Exchange" Program which allowed the Curaçao Employee and Supervisor of the Year to travel to our sister islands Bonaire, St. Maarten and Aruba in the consecutive years. This year CHATA approached Suriname to also participate in this program, where

the Curaçao Stars will do their Exchange program.

This year it's the turn of the Aruba winners to visit Curacao. Besides rewarding them for their input and dedication, this program offers the employee and supervisor of the year a trip where they can experience the hospitality that they offer to guests on daily basis while on the job. It also offers them the possibility to spend half of a day with someone who works in a similar position in Curacao as they do in Aruba to experience how the job is being carried out there.

Continued on page 5

Sunday KOFFIE MORGEN Slot Tournament \$1000,- Cash Prizes
Monday Cool Raffle Awg 1000,- Earn DOUBLE POINTS all day
Tuesday Cool Raffle Awg 1000,- Earn DOUBLE POINTS all day
Wednesday Raffle AWG 500,- Cool Casino - LADIES NIGHT
Thursday Cool Raffle Awg 1000,- Earn DOUBLE POINTS all day
Friday BlackJack Tournament \$500,-
Saturday KOFFIE MORGEN Cool Raffle Awg 1500,- Triple Points all day



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Saturday

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3

x

Triple Points (10am-6pm)



Balloon Raffle \$500

9:30 PM

10:30 PM

11:30 PM

12:30 PM

1:30 PM

Live Band 9:00 pm - 2 am

Climax

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Visit Rita Maasdamme's impressive exposition



Rita Maasdamme

Yesterday, September 7th was the first day of the opening of an impressive exposition, titled, "A look at yesterday in the light of tomorrow." The exposition is housed in the historic Fort Zoutman in Oranjestad. Rita Maasdamme is the designer and artist of the exposition...she is a talented Dutch-Aruban artist.

The exposition pictures historic and traditional scenes of Aruba and other countries in the Caribbean. Rita Maasdamme's designs are historic scenes in the tradition of

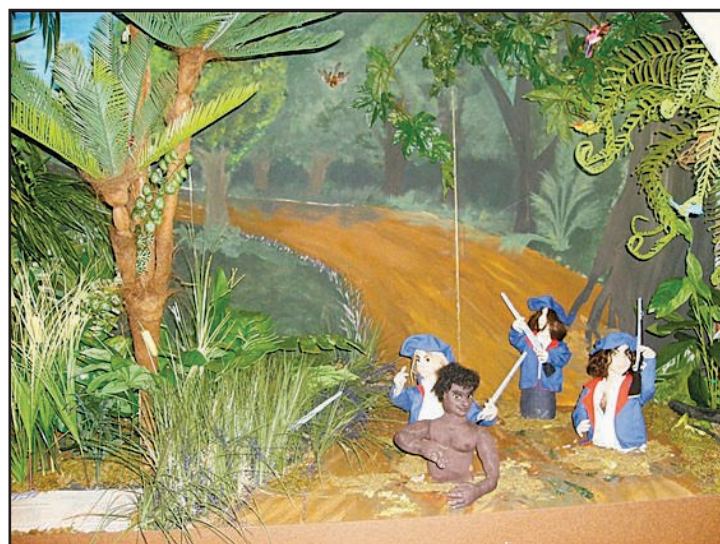


Surinam-Caribbean diorama. The designs are tridimensional presentations where figures and historical events are visualized through the use of handmade dolls, homes, vegetation, etc. Rita uses this method to illustrate the history of Aruba before the start of the petroleum industry.

Rita used themes such as folkloric music of Aruba, home life, aloe harvest and religious life around Alto Vista, which are all very nicely depicted. Popular Aruban personalities like the

Shon (Master), and the farmer, Padu del Caribe and the Virginia slave and their stories all embody the essence of the exposition. She even included the story of Buchi Fil from Curacao in her presentation.

The exposition is open to the general public, for all ages, school children, families and visitors alike. Go to the Fort Zoutman to get your gaze of a piece of Aruba's history in this impressive work of art on exposition.



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Caribbean Wrestling Bash-The Legends tournament under way today at Joe Laveist Ballpark

Excited wrestling fans at the Holiday Inn joined media to meet some of the greatest names in the sport during the official welcome of the Caribbean Wrestling Bash-The Legends. Two days of top professional wrestling action is taking place this weekend at the Joe Laveist Ballpark in San Nicolas.

Last night, the CWB opened with comedy from Hall of Famers Jerry "The King" Lawler, who holds more titles than any wrestler, and

Wrestling Champion belt. It is remarkable to find such a collection of wrestling talent gathered together for a weekend of athletics and entertainment, especially in Aruba.

"Monday Night Raw just celebrated its 1000th show," Jerry Lawler told media during the conference,

"and you are looking at the legendary compe titors that made it happen. This is truly a 'gathering of greats,' and everyone can expect some amazing entertainment over the weekend."

Tickets are now on sale at Valero Essoville and Boulevard stations, Johnson Enterprises, the Fun

Miles main office and Manuelito's Sportsbar in Oranjestad. Ticket sales at the gate begin at 5:00 PM. Inquiries and reservations can be made by calling 593-4135 or 593-4606, or e-mail: c w b a @ j e aruba.com. For news and exciting daily updates, check the Caribbean Wrestling Bash Aruba Facebook Page.

Special



Velvet Sky and Angelina Love

prices are available on two-day packages for both the preliminary and final bouts. General admission for two days is 125 Aruban florins, (\$70) with one child 12 or under free with each purchase of an adult ticket. Ringside, VIP and VIP platinum tickets for two days are available for 150, 275 and 375 Aruban florins (\$85, \$157 and \$214.)

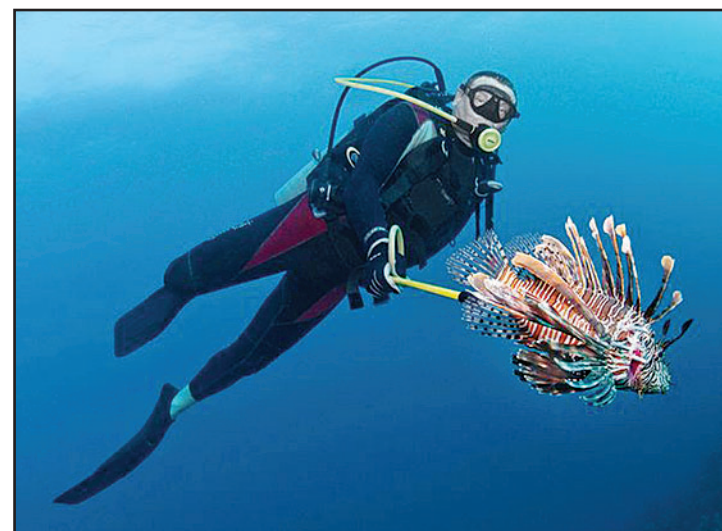
"YES! FINALLY," screamed an enthusiastic fan during the press conference. "After 14 years of vacationing here annually, I am thrilled to see live professional wrestling has come to Aruba!!"

by Rosalie Klein



X Pac shows off the belts

New policy regarding Lion fishing announced



ORANJESTAD -- The public prosecutor's office recently sat down with the Aruba Marine Park Foundation and the Aruba Under Water Hunters, to discuss the matter of spear fishing.

During this meeting these organizations were emphatic about the dire negative consequences of the presence of Lionfish (Pterois) in our waters. They detailed the specific devastating consequences these invasive fish have for our flora and fauna under water and for the coral.

The Public Prosecutor's office has changed its policy of penalty prosecuting those who engage in spear fishing. This change has taken effect as of July 29th 2012. The new policy simply states that those in-

involved with an organization using specifically and only ELF, Hawaiian sling, pole spears or hooks, to hunt Lionfish in our territorial waters will not be prosecuted. The organizations in question will be held responsible for the registration of their members and for maintaining communication with the Coast Guard regarding their activities.

This exception in the new policy of the Public Prosecutor's Office regarding spear fishing is applicable exclusively and only to hunting Lionfish. Anyone who infringes on the law and becomes guilty of spear fishing other types of fish will be prosecuted and their gear will also be confiscated.



Signing shirts

"Rowdy" Roddy Piper, who graced the audience with the wit that has garnered his "Piper's Pit" comedy club and "Rod Pod" satellite radio broadcasts so many devoted followers. A lengthy "Meet & Greet" allowed islanders and visiting wrestling fanatics the opportunity to chat with their heroes and gather autographs from the wrestling legends.

Tonight, the tournament begins. Wrestling legends Kevin Nash, Scott Steiner, Krimson, X-Pac, Billy Gunn, Rhino, Divas Angelina Love and Velvet Sky, and fresh new stars of the future, Chasyn Rance and Cody Hall, will battle in out in the ring for the coveted Aruba

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Aruba is the 'case study'...

Continued from page 1



Patrick Doherty

On September 13, Peter Boyd will head off to Berlin where Aruba will be the focal theme of their presentation. Boyd reported that next week there will be a conference in Berlin called "Creating climate wealth" in which he is to participate. The conference is the idea of entrepreneurs to come together to solve the problem of climate change. He reported that Aruba will be the 'case study' for the groups in attendance. They will also distribute an interview held here with the Aruba Prime Minister which has been included in a magazine.

According to Boyd, Aruba is making big steps in moving forward; for this reason he believes that Aruba will be ready by 2020. There is a great deal of hard work to be done, many strategic decisions to be made in the years ahead and to resist combustible fossil fuels. Boyd believes that it is their job to work together with the New America Foundation and the government of Aruba on pushing forward for the 50% of sustainable energy that Aruba must achieve after our wind energy and solar panel projects which will take care of the first 50% of sustainable energy.

Stars of the Industry Aruba visiting Curacao

Continued from page 2

During their stay the "Stars" from Aruba visited different hotels and attractions on the island. They had a golf lesson at Blue Bay Golf, an island tour with Funbini Taber Tours, tour at L'Aldea and enjoyed a Dr. Fish foot therapy at Welzijn Spa. They also had a department tour at the Hyatt Regency Curaçao in the Recreation department, Loss & prevention and Housekeeping Department. Besides all these activities

these Stars enjoyed lunch or dinner at Academy Hotel Curaçao, Avila Hotel, Princess Beach Curaçao, Rancho El Sobrino, Renaissance Curaçao Resort, Restaurant Gouverneur de Rouville. They stayed at Sandton Kura Hulanda Resort.

The trip of the "Stars of the Industry" of Aruba is courtesy of Sandton Kura Hulanda Resort, Academy Hotel Curaçao, Avila Hotel, Blue Bay Golf, Curaçao Os-

trich Farm, Funbini Taber Tours, Hyatt Regency Curaçao, L'Aldea, Princess Beach Curaçao Resort, Rancho El Sobrino, Renaissance Curaçao Resort & Casino, Restaurant Gouverneur de Rouville and Welzijn Spa.

Thanks to these sponsors the Aruba Stars had a wonderful and educational/informative trip.

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Mainstreet Downtown Aruba

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Dozens feared dead after migrant boat sinks off Italy

ROME (AFP) - Rescuers searched yesterday for around 50 missing migrants feared drowned after their boat sank off the coast of the Italian island of Lampedusa overnight, Italian rescue services said.

The coastguard called on private vessels and teams from local deep-sea diving centers to join the search.

The Italian coastguard and nearby NATO ships plucked 56 people from the sea after receiving a distress call from the sinking boat, which survivors said had been carrying 136 migrants including 10 women and six children.

Coastguard spokesman Filippo Marini confirmed one body had been found and said the search would continue "as long as there is hope of finding survivors."

Those rescued "are in good health although they are suffering from hypothermia," after spending hours in the water,

Marini said. Some were plucked from the waters off the islet of Lampione, while others had made it ashore.

The survivors, apparently all Tunisians, were taken to a nearby reception center on the island of Lampedusa, off Italy's southernmost tip.

So far however there has been no sign of the wrecked boat.

Some Italian media reports have even speculated as to whether it had quickly sunk or may have been towed back to Tunisia by a "mother boat," which could have taken the remaining migrants with it.

Prosecutors in Agrigento, Sicily, have opened an inquiry into whether there were people traffickers on board, and whether they were among the survivors.

But UN refugee agency spokeswoman Laura Boldrini said: "The idea of people smugglers is by now obsolete."

China quakes kill 67, injure 731

BEIJING (AFP) - At least 67 people were killed and 731 injured when two earthquakes struck a remote and mountainous area of southwest China yesterday, toppling houses and sending panicked crowds onto the streets.

Residents described how people ran out of buildings screaming as the two shallow quakes hit on the border of Yunnan and Guizhou provinces an hour apart around the middle of the day. They were followed by a string of after-shocks.

Television footage showed roads strewn with fallen bricks and rocks in Yunnan province's Yiliang county, which appeared to be worst hit.

Authorities were sending thousands of tents, quilts and coats, and Premier Wen Jiabao was also heading to the area,

the state Xinhua news agency said, confirming the death and injured toll, which rose steadily throughout the day.

Footage on state television network CCTV showed hundreds of people crowded into a sports field in Yiliang.

The US Geological Survey said the first quake struck at 11.20 am (0320 GMT) at a depth of around 10 kilometers (six miles), with the second quake around an hour later, putting the magnitude of both at 5.6.

The earthquakes cut off electricity and triggered landslides, blocking roads, which was complicating the rescue mission, Xinhua said.

Yunnan's civil affairs department said that 6,650 houses had been destroyed and 100,000 people evacuated. There were also fears of dis-

ease after thousands of cattle were killed when sheds caved in. The death toll could still rise because a few villages remain blocked by landslides, Xinhua said, quoting a seismologist as saying that the hardest-hit areas are relatively populous and poor, meaning buildings collapsed easily.

Rocks as tall as four meters (13 feet) crashed into mountain roads, crushing houses and cars, the report said.

Southwest China is prone to earthquakes. In May 2008, an 8.0-magnitude quake rocked Sichuan and parts of neighbouring Shaanxi and Gansu provinces, killing tens of thousands and flattening swathes of the province.

Local hospitals and government officials could not be reached for comment.

Canada breaks off relations with Iran

OTTAWA (AFP) - Canada closed its Tehran embassy yesterday and ordered Iranian diplomats be expelled, in a damning severance of ties in which it accused the Islamic Republic of being the biggest threat to world peace.

Canada did not cite a specific incident that caused the breakdown, but issued a strongly worded attack on Tehran's support for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's pariah regime and Iran's "incitement to genocide" against Israel.

In announcing the action, Ottawa cited concerns for the safety of its staff at the diplomatic mission in Tehran and also attacked the failure of Iran's rulers to account for the nation's disputed nuclear program.

"Canada views the government of Iran as the most significant threat to global peace and security in the world today," Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird said in a state-

ment.

"Diplomatic relations between Canada and Iran have been suspended. All Canadian diplomatic staff have left Iran, and Iranian diplomats in Ottawa have been instructed to leave within five days," he added.

Baird also warned Canadians, including dual nationals, that Ottawa will not be able to provide assistance to them if they travel to Iran, and advised any Canadians in Iran to contact the Canadian mission in Turkey if needed.



Hollywood star Sean Penn's Charity will oversee demolition of the wrecked National Palace, which was largely destroyed in the earthquake of January 2010. The structure is being demolished for the eventual construction of a new building, although a presidential spokesman said that the decision of how to replace the palace had not yet been made.



INDIA, Vanoda : An Indian visitor watches as water gushes from the Wanakbori Dam at village Vanoda, some 110 kms from Ahmedabad on September 7, 2012. Thousands of people have been evacuated from many parts of Gujarat owing to heavy delayed monsoon rains. (AFP PHOTO)



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS**Chavez and rival urged to lower tensions ahead of election**

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Hugo Chavez and his rival in next month's election in Venezuela need to provide mutual guarantees to calm deeply polarized voters and avert post-electoral violence, the Carter Center said YESTERday.

But so far the campaign backing Chavez, who has been in power for 13 years, is failing to do this. "Rather, it is more confrontational," said Jennifer McCoy, Americas director for the human rights foundation created by former US president Jimmy Carter.

Chavez's rival is Henrique Capriles, a former governor backed by a coalition of opposition parties.

Conditions that could lead to violence exist when people feel that if their candidate loses, they might stop receiving social benefits they had been enjoying, be excluded or suffer reprisal from the win-

ning camp, she said.

"Hopefully, the candidates will try to avoid these kind of scenarios," McCoy said at the Wilson Center, a Washington-based think tank.

Capriles is seeking to "reassure those people who have been benefiting from the previous 13 years that these benefits will continue."

The Carter Center has acted as an observer in past Venezuelan elections but will not do so this time.

In fact there will be no international observers at the Oct. 7 vote, although many local and highly experienced civic groups will monitor the election, McCoy said.

The Carter Center will do so informally, and is working on a program with Venezuelan news outlets to try to minimize polarization between the pro-Chavez and pro-Capriles camps. "When it comes to the news media, the polarization

UN increases Syria appeal to \$347 million

GENEVA (AFP) - The United Nations yesterday almost doubled its humanitarian appeal for Syria to \$347 million as the worsening conflict sends growing numbers fleeing the country.

The United Nations now estimates that more than 2.5 million people need food and medical help in the country stricken by 18 months of strife as President Bashar al-Assad battles opposition forces, officials said.

The new appeal was launched at a Syria Humanitarian Forum in Geneva. "We are in a crisis mode, we are in an emergency mode," said John Ging, chairman of the forum that groups different UN agencies' aid efforts.

"We have authorised our operations to the maximum with the funds available. We urgently need additional resources to be able to cope with the situation."

The United Nations had previously sought \$180 million for emergency operations inside Syria. UN spokesman Martin Nesirky said this has been increased to \$347 million.

He said UN agencies wanted to launch 57 projects in all of Syria's 14 provinces.

UN leader Ban Ki-moon has stepped up pleas for more contributions in recent weeks. The old appeal was only half funded. The United Nations has also asked for \$193 million to help an estimated 250,000 refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq. This is also severely underfunded.

"There are too few donors," Ging stressed at the Syria meeting. "The base of donors

has to be broadened. Now there is just a handful of countries."

More than 1.2 million, over half of them children, have become internally displaced in Syria, according to UN figures. The country faces a growing shortage of medicines as production has come to a near standstill and many areas have been hit by water shortages, UN officials said.

The United States said Wednesday it would boost Syria aid to over \$100 million.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn has a new girlfriend

PARIS (AFP) - Disgraced ex-IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn has a new girlfriend who works for a well-known television channel, glossy French weekly VSD said yesterday, printing photographs of the two together.

His new love interest was a "bubbly 40-something" with a "senior job in a big television chain", it said and identified her as Myriam.

The photographs showed

them on holiday in Corsica. The article is titled "DSK, He is forgetting Anne with another." It claimed that with his new girlfriend, "DSK has become a gentleman again".

Strauss-Kahn's wife of some two decades, Anne Sinclair, recently confirmed their split. A former television journalist and the heiress to a large fortune, Sinclair now runs the French edition of the Huffington Post.



Lunch Buffet

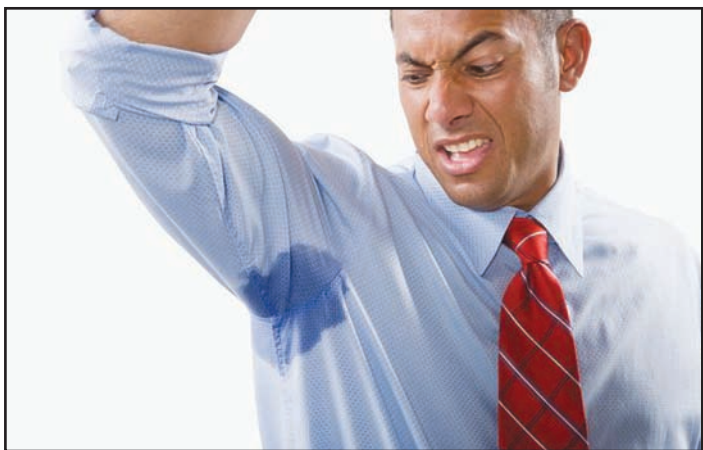
Saturday - Sunday
12:00 - 3 p.m.

Dinner

Monday - Sunday
6:00 - 11:00 p.m

Palm Beach Center - Palm Beach Aruba - Tel: 5860944

Health Tip: Sweaty Armpits?



* Always keep yourself clean. Don't wear clothes that you have worn before, especially those that you've perspired on. Wear loose clothing under the armpits. Avoid clothes made with man-made fibres such as Lycra® and nylon.

* Antiperspirants and deodorants may help you stay fresh for some time but there are other home remedies that work better than these man-made products. Cotton ball soaked in apple cider vinegar wiped on your armpits immediately after shower kills odor creating bacteria..

* Baking soda can also be rubbed around the armpits since they help to absorb sweat and leave you dry for a long period of time. Baking soda mixed with a few drops of lemon juice can be applied on the area and left for ten minutes. Rinse the area with lukewarm water to eliminate body odor.

* Avoid foods and drinks that make you sweat like chili, onions, garlic, alcohol and caffeine.

* You can also stop sweaty armpits with Botox injections, electrical currents, or surgery. (bu they do come with a high price tag, and may be painful)

*Bbut the first and foremost solution to bad underarm odor is to keep the area clean and dry as far as possible.



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Health & Living

Retired French teacher gets 10 years for childsex

PAPEETE (AFP) - A retired French school teacher was sentenced to 10 years in prison in French Polynesia for raping four boys in a judgement hailed by prosecutors as a warning to other abusers.

"This is a just sentence and a strong signal for paedophiles who could be tempted to try to come to Polynesia to take advantage of the gentle nature of the children," the lawyer for the victims, Thinaud Millet, said after Thursday's ruling by

a Papeete court.

Jean-Claude Alcaras, 71, a former teacher of French and English, was arrested in June 2010 after being found with a nine-year-old boy in a toilet at Tahiti's international airport.

He had travelled to Tahiti several times from 2001 as a sex tourist.

Alcaras has admitted abusing some 30 children but investigators believe the number of victims could have been as high as 200, based on his tes-

timony.

The four victims, aged around 10, were picked up from a school in an impoverished part of Tahiti and were paid 8 to 12 euros (\$10 to 15) to have sex with him.

"He came to Polynesia for a safari to hunt his prey," Millet said.

The septuagenarian will serve his sentence outside French Polynesia in line with a request by the parents of the victims.

Vietnam hit by new 'highly-toxic' bird flu: reports

HANOI (AFP) - A new highly-toxic strain of the potentially deadly bird flu virus has appeared in Vietnam and is spreading fast, according to state media reports.

The strain appeared to be a mutation of the H5N1 virus which swept through the country's poultry flocks last year, forcing mass culls of birds in affected areas, according to agriculture officials.

The new virus "is quickly spreading and this is the big concern of the government", Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Diep Kinh Tan said, according

to a Thursday report in the VietnamNet online newspaper.

Experts cited in the report said the new virus appeared in July and had spread through Vietnam's northern and central regions in August.

Outbreaks have been detected in six provinces so far and some 180,000 birds have been culled, the Animal Health department said.

The Central Veterinary Diagnosis Centre said the virus appeared similar to the standard strains of bird flu but was more toxic.

The centre will test how much protection existing vac-

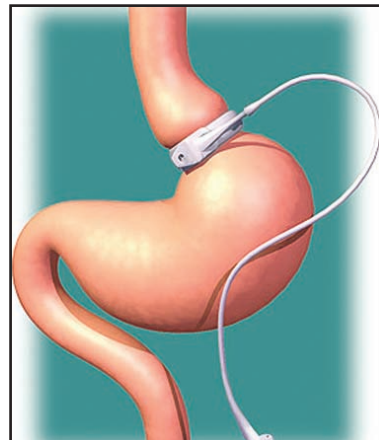
cines for humans offer, the report said.

Some experts suggested that the new strain resulted from widespread smuggling of poultry from China into the northern parts of Vietnam.

Two people have died this year from the virulent disease -- but long before the new strain was identified.

The avian influenza virus has killed more than 330 people around the world, and scientists fear it could mutate into a form readily transmissible between humans, with the potential to cause millions of deaths.

In body-conscious Brazil, half are now overweight



RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - One of the world's most body-conscious countries, Brazil is now threatened by growing obesity rates, with half of the population already overweight.

As a result of an unbalanced diet and a rise in more sedentary lifestyles, Brazil, which moved 30 million people out of poverty and into the middle class over the past decade, is paying a heavy price for its frenetic growth.

Nearly half of the country's 194 million people are overweight and 16 percent obese,

according to a health ministry report released in April.

The most overweight section of the population are men aged 35-45, of whom almost two thirds are fat, and women aged 45-54.

"Brazilians have a poor diet. They could eat green vegetables but they prefer beans and fat," said Solange de Goncalves, a 38-year-old from Rio who weighs 123 kilos (271 pounds) and is among Brazil's 30 million obese citizens.

Overweight since her childhood, she also suffers from high blood pressure and diabetes and concedes that her

life is not easy.

"People look at you in the street. You cannot find clothes matching your size. Once I even got stuck in a bus turnstile," she told AFP, her voice cracking with emotion.

The number of Brazilians undergoing the ring procedure soared 275 percent between 2003 and 2010 to 60,000 a year.

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Neil Armstrong to be buried at sea: family

CHICAGO (AFP) - Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon, will be buried at sea, a family spokesman announced.

"I suspect it will be a private service," spokesman Rick Miller told AFP.

He said further details were not immediately available.

The burial will take place after a September 13 public memorial in the US capital.

NASA chief Charles Bolden, present and former

astronauts and other dignitaries are expected to attend the ceremony at the Washington National Cathedral in honor of Armstrong, who died on August 25 at the age of 82.

Armstrong, who died of complications from cardiovascular surgery, grew up in rural Ohio and flew in the US Navy before joining the US space program.

The Apollo 11 commander strode into the history books on July 20, 1969, when he became the first person to walk on the moon, famously calling it "one small step for (a) man, one giant leap for mankind."

The Washington cathedral includes the famous stained glass Space Window, housing a moon rock brought back by Armstrong and fellow astronaut Buzz Aldrin from their Apollo 11 mission.

Flags flew at half staff across the United States last week as family, friends and fellow astronauts gathered in Ohio to remember Armstrong at a private service.

France says it will close oldest nuclear plant by 2017

PARIS (AFP) - French Ecology and Energy Minister Delphine Batho said Friday the government was still committed to closing the country's oldest operational nuclear plant by 2017.

A steam leak due to an accidental chemical reaction led to two people being slightly burnt on Wednesday at the Fessenheim plant, located in eastern France close to the Swiss and German borders.

The incident resulted in renewed calls to reduce the country's heavy reliance on atomic energy.

France, the world's most nuclear-dependent country, operates 58 reactors and has been a leading international proponent of atomic energy.

But in a deal with the Greens before this year's parliamentary and presidential elections, President Francois Hollande's Socialist party promised to reduce reliance on nuclear energy from more than 75 percent to 50 percent by shutting 24 reactors by 2025.

Hollande had also pledged to close Fessenheim by 2017.

France's reliance on nuclear power has been increasingly called into question since the Fukushima disaster in Japan, which prompted Germany to announce plans to shut all of its reactors by the end of 2022.

On stream since 1977, Fessenheim has two water reactors. It is built along a huge canal and draws water for cooling from the Rhine river.

Due to its location, it is considered vulnerable to seismic activity and flooding.

Batho said that "nuclear plants are being phased out across the world in coming years and this is an industrial issue for France."



SHENZHEN, China (AFP) - This picture taken on September 3, 2012, shows six-year-old quadruplets from Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province with their hair shaved into various numbers before they start to go to school for their first time. Their parents decided to mark them with 1, 2, 3, 4 on their heads to make it easier for teachers and classmates to tell them apart.



COMICS

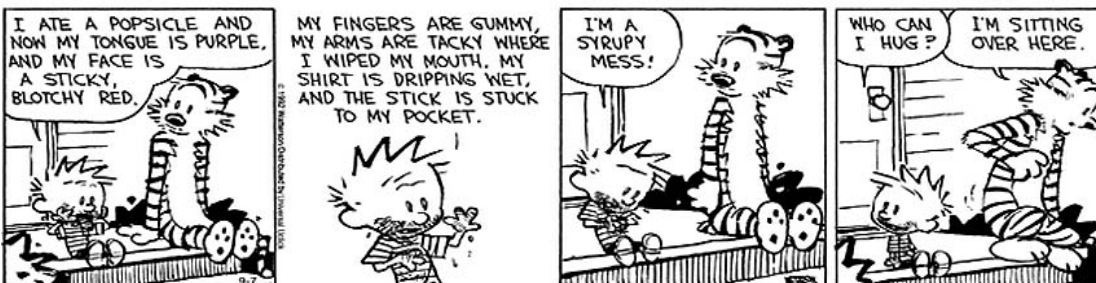
PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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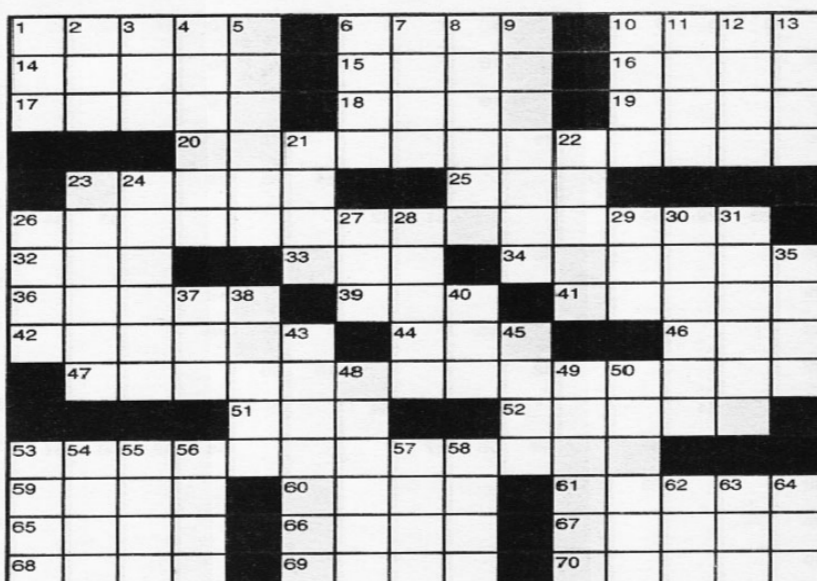
BASKETBALL'S BEST

ACROSS

1. Coincides, informally
6. Sentry's shout
10. Molar malady
14. Plow pioneer John
15. Like wings
16. Asian mountain
17. Reference book ender, often
18. French novelist Pierre
19. Comic Chris
20. 1958 NBA champs
23. San ____, California
25. Painter's funding gp.
26. 1995 NBA champs
32. "Newhart" locale
33. Humble __
34. Indian shelters
36. Positioned
39. Prohibition
41. Riyadh native
42. Large beer mug
44. Dick's was Puff
46. Roofing material
47. 2004 NBA champs
51. 1600, to Livy
52. Has a bias
53. 1998 NBA champs
59. Nighttime attire
60. Father of Cainan
61. Mrs. Mertz
65. "It's __ to Tell a Lie"

DOWN

66. Irritate
67. Desist
68. The top
69. Permanent mark
70. Lover's rendezvous
1. "Star Wars" prog.
2. Itch
3. First name of "The Absent-Minded Professor"
4. Peaks
5. Composition for six
6. Nimbus
7. Baseballer Jesus
8. Hispanic
9. Divide into thirds
10. Ambience
11. Singer Sheryl
12. Uncreative creator
13. Wapitis
21. Spiral
22. Cods' cousins
23. Wealthy
24. __ Mame
26. Cat's warning
27. Bird's bill
28. Do a double take
29. Govt. conservationists
30. Ancient Jutlander
31. Family cars
35. Generic addressees
37. NYC summer zone
38. Skin layer
40. Item on a baby's schedule
43. Roomers
45. Ready the soil
48. Representational
49. Choose
50. King's protector at mealtime
53. Grouch
54. Watering-can alternative
55. Tropical wading bird
56. Penny
57. Gaucho's weapon
58. On-line person
62. Statesman-author John Milton
63. Curved letter
64. "___ Freedom Ring"



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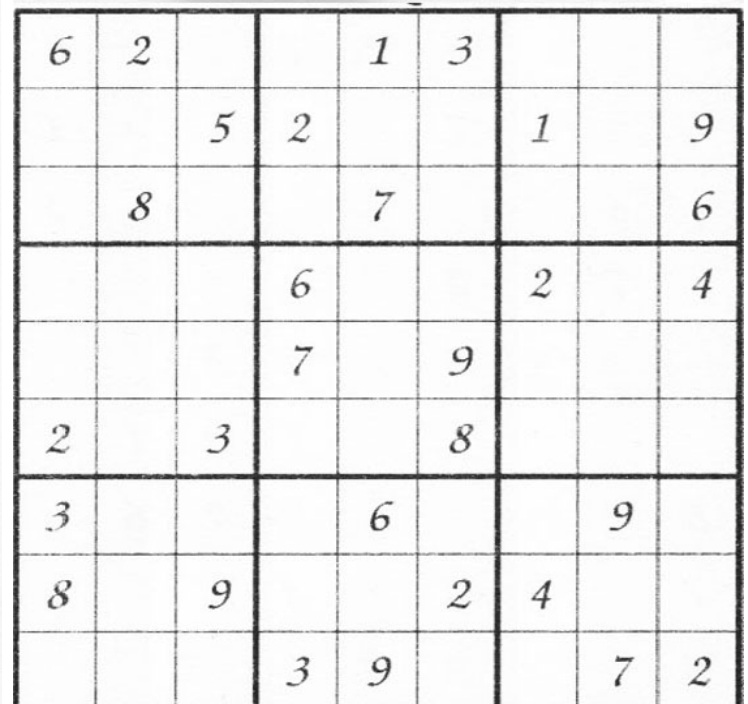
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

2	8	4	6	1	9	5	3	7
5	9	7	2	5	1	6	8	3
1	6	5	8	9	8	7	4	2
4	1	6	8	7	5	9	2	3
5	2	9	6	7	8	1	3	4
7	8	2	1	9	4	6	5	3
9	7	5	8	2	1	3	6	4
6	4	1	9	8	7	5	2	3
8	5	3	1	6	7	2	9	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

EU plan gives ECB right to raid banks, withdraw licence

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The European Central Bank will be authorised to carry out spot checks and withdraw the licences of lenders under banking supervision proposals to be presented by the European Commission next week.

A 33-page draft of the plans drawn up in Brussels and put online by Italian business daily Il Sole 24 Ore said the ECB will have the power to grant and withdraw banking licences, previously the preserve of national supervisors.

The common bank supervisor proposal is due to be unveiled on Wednesday in the European Parliament sitting in Strasbourg by Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and financial services commissioner Michel Barnier.

The ECB would take up its new duties as of July 1, 2013, and after a transitional period, take sole authority on January 1, 2014.

EU leaders decided at a June summit to create a common banking supervisor as part of a deal that will allow the bloc's rescue funds to directly lend funds to stricken banks instead of passing aid through countries and adding to sovereign debt problems.

It is a first step towards a

banking union and part of wider moves towards fuller economic and political integration which they judged necessary to break the vicious circle driven by the eurozone debt crisis which has brought the region's economy to a standstill.

The proposal is controversial, reducing the role of the London-based European Banking Authority which was set up in the wake of the 2008 global financial crisis.

It has been opposed by among others Britain, home to the financial center of the City of London where big eurozone banks have major interests.

The legislative proposals -- which face many months of hard bargaining among governments and then the European Parliament -- give the ECB the power "to authorise credit institutions and to withdraw authorisation of credit institutions."

It will also monitor all sorts of measures, from capital buffers and liquidity to public disclosure.

Even non-euro states will be pushed to enter into formal "close cooperation" agreements with the ECB which would allow it to use the same spot-check powers.

Ford says to keep French factory with at least 1,000 jobs

BORDEAUX (AFP) - US auto giant Ford Motor Co. said yesterday it would keep its factory in the southwestern French town of Blanquefort going with at least 1,000 jobs.

The firm's director of manufacturing for Europe, Jeff Wood, told reporters that the automaker had decided to recommit to the plant and restore

1,000 jobs, despite financial difficulties.

Ford sold the plant, which used to make transmissions, to German company HZ Holding in 2009, before buying it back in January of last year.

Unions say the plant employed around 1,200 people in December but now only has 250 active workers.

EU inspectors probing possible sea freight cartels

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Inspectors have made surprise checks of sea transport firms in several EU countries as part of an international probe into suspected cartels, the European Commission said yesterday.

The statement said officials had Thursday made "unannounced inspections at the premises of several providers of maritime transport services for cars and construction and agricultural rolling machinery".

The European operation took place in coordination with US and Japanese authorities, the statement added.

The inspections were authorised because officials believed that the companies targeted may have been involved in cartels and restrictive business practices in violation of EU law, said the Commission.

But it added: "The fact that the European Commission carries out such inspections does not mean that the companies are guilty of anti-competitive behaviour; nor does it prejudice the outcome of the investigation itself."

Portugal's PM announces further austerity measures

LISBON (AFP) - Portuguese Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho yesterday announced fresh austerity measures for 2013 as the government struggled to meet its economic targets.

He announced a rise in social security contributions for public and private sector workers together with cuts in employers' contributions in a bid to kickstart job creation, with unemployment running at more than 15 percent.

By increasing private sector social security contributions to 18 percent, the government was

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as 09/07/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.79	1.81	1.83
Britain	GBP	2.77	2.82	2.88
Switzerland	CHF	186.41	187.13	187.93
Netherlands	EUR	224.25	226.30	228.57
Sweden	SEK	25.68	26.40	27.20
Denmark	DKK	29.40	30.12	30.92
Norway	NOK	29.73	30.45	31.25
Japan	JPY	223.67	225.71	227.98
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Obama: jobs report not good enough

PORTSMOUTH, New Hampshire (AFP) - US President Barack Obama said yesterday that a new report showing the US economy created just 96,000 jobs last month was "not good enough."

In his first campaign event following his convention speech Thursday, Obama noted, however, that the economy had added jobs for 30 straight months while it was losing 800,000 jobs a month when he took office.

Obama said the rate of job creation was "not good

enough. We know it's not good enough. We need to create more jobs faster. We need to fill the hole left by this recession faster.

"We need to come out of this crisis stronger than when we went in. And there's a lot more that we can do."

Obama told a 6,000 strong crowd here that Americans needed to press Republicans in Congress to unblock his jobs plan, which he says would find work for one million people, which has been stuck on Capitol Hill for months.

able to decrease employers' contributions to the same 18 percent, said the prime minister in a nationwide address.

Until now, social security contributions in the private sector had stood at 11 percent, while employers' contributions had been fixed at 23.75 percent.

Passos Coelho's statement came as officials from the "troika" of international credi-

tors -- the European Union, the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank -- visited Portugal.

The global economic institutions are monitoring Portugal's implementation of spending cuts and economic reforms required in return for the 78 billion euro (\$98 billion) rescue package the country received in May 2011.



Photo shows members of German air carrier Lufthansa's cabin crew union "UFO" assembling at a strike post at the Fraport airport in Frankfurt August 31, 2012. Lufthansa cancelled 64 flights at its main hub Frankfurt yesterday as cabin crew began the first of a series of strikes over pay and cost cuts in a busy holiday season.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

HILO	HABLA	GENT
ERIN	OLLAS	ARIA
MOLE	ROOST	RAPT
INTRODUCTION		
RED	PETE	
LASSOS	GREETING	
ELOIN	HAUL	RTE
HELLO	LITTLE	GIRL
ATA	IDES	DINED
RECEIVES	SINGES	
SENS	SIT	
SHAKING	HANDS	
NAMU	SIMON	GOAL
AFAR	STERE	ROMA
BIDE	ESTER	ANEW



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No Sunday shopping: Dutch vote spawns some offbeat ideas



Old grain silo in Zwolle province capital of Overijssel Netherlands

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Shutting the Netherlands down on Sundays, protecting an African language and living a work-free life are some of the more offbeat policies being put forward by Dutch parties ahead of Wednesday's vote.

A whopping 21 parties are contesting parliament's 150 seats in the election, the second in just over two years after government collapsed in April over a disagreement on European Union austerity measures.

Lady Gaga's meat gown goes on display

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The raw meat dress worn by Lady Gaga at a 2010 awards ceremony will go on display Friday in the US capital alongside a fox fur worn by Billie Holiday and boots sported by Patti Smith. The dress made out of raw beef, which caused a sensation at the MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles two years ago, will be part of an exhibition on women singers at Washington's National Museum of Women in the Arts. The dress, which still belongs to the singer, was chemically treated by taxidermists to preserve it and painted red to make it appear "fresh." The piano on which the eccentric performer played her first chords is also on display, along with some 250 objects associated with 70 artists from 1920 to the present.



Should they get their say, the conservative Reformed Political Party (SGP), which currently has two seats in the Lower House, wants to close all shops on Sundays in order for citizens "to go to church".

The party, which bases itself on strict Christian principles and has never had a woman in parliament since its founding in 1918, advocates a "no work" Sunday, unless the work is an act of charity or an essential service.

In an ideal world the SGP would also like to see an end to Sunday matches that are watched religiously at stadiums and in sitting rooms around the football-mad country because they mean police officers "have to work", a party official told AFP.

The Sovereign Independent Pioneers Netherlands (SOPN), also known as the "UFO party" after its founder UFOlogist Anton Teuben, wants to give every citizen a "living wage" and do away with the necessity of having a job.

The SOPN also advocates the ban of future land ownership with the total "land area of the Dutch State being seen as the property of Mother Earth. Current owners can use the land provided they look after it," the SOPN said in its election manifesto.

A "movement" rather than a party, the SOPN predicted winning this election with a "majority of 76 seats or more" but has not managed a single seat since it started in 2003.

In its campaign manifesto, the far-right Party for Freedom (PVV), run by eurosceptic anti-Islam politician Geert Wilders said it wanted to push for the preservation of the Afrikaans language in South Africa and Namibia.

Spoken by white and mixed-race South Africans, Afrikaans has its roots in 17th-century Dutch spoken by early colonial farmers and slaves,

with words borrowed from Indonesian and indigenous languages.

Long associated with the white apartheid government, the forced introduction of Afrikaans in segregated black schools led to bloody riots in 1976 in which almost 600 people died.

"We are defending our Dutch language. Afrikaans is closely related to Dutch... but the language is further being marginalised," the PVV said.

The Party for Animals (PvdD), currently with two MPs, wants recreational angling banned, demanding also that "fishing lessons" in schools be scrapped.

The party also wants a complete ban on pigeon racing as a sport, saying many of the birds die of exhaustion.

The Dutch Electoral Commission struck down 26 other

parties who said they wanted to take part in the polls, but failed to hand in valid candidacy lists.

Of these, the Party for Humans and Other Earth Dwellers said they had no problem with people taking drugs "but in moderation."

They also advocate free food and drink in supermarkets, financed by income tax gained from citizens.

The Club of Non-voters argued that at least a third of all Dutch citizens were disillusioned with politics and would support their movement.

"Should the movement decide to become a political party and take part in the elections, there would be a big chance that the prime minister would come from our ranks."

"But in the current political system you have to take part. We won't."

Spain film festival honours Dustin Hoffman

MADRID (AFP) - Dustin Hoffman will be honoured with a special lifetime achievement award by Spain's top film festival, organisers announced Friday. The award is "a tribute to one of Hollywood's greatest actors, winner of two Academy Awards and with a brilliant career behind him," the San Sebastian International Film Festival said in a statement. Hoffman, 75, will receive a special award marking the 60th anniversary of the festival in northern Spain, the oldest and most prestigious event of its kind in the Spanish-speaking world. The award ceremony will close the September 21-29 festival. Hoffman has starred in emblematic American movies from "The Graduate" to "Midnight Cowboy", "Straw Dogs", "All the President's Men", "Marathon Man", "Kramer vs. Kramer", "Tootsie" and "Rain Man". But in San Sebastian he will present his directorial debut: "Quartet", set in a home for retired opera singers.



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blackjack tournament will keep veteran high-rollers happy, as well as periodic special events that attract an international crowd; stop by and check their schedule.

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Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef



Keshi Yena with plaintains, vegetables and pica

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varella Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena - "Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously pic-

turesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.) With Seafood main courses - Catch of the Day Aruban Style - shrimp - mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local. They are open from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

London Paralympics 2012

Champions dominate as Games approach climax

LONDON (AFP) - Dutch wheelchair tennis star Esther Vergeer on Friday won the women's singles title for the fourth successive Games, to stretch her unbeaten run in the game to 470 matches.

The top seed beat compatriot and second seed Aniek van Koot 6-0, 6-3 in 59 minutes on the blue hardcourts of Eton Manor in east London. Third seed Jiske Griffioen, also of the Netherlands, beat Germany's Sabine Ellerbock for bronze.

Vergeer, who first won the singles title in Sydney 12 years ago, described the win as "amazing" and a relief after huge expectations going into the match.

Ireland's Jason Smyth destroyed the field again on Friday, as he took the T13 200m for visually impaired athletes in a new world record to cement his position as the fastest Paralympian in history.

The 25-year-old, who has the genetic condition Star-gardt's disease, led from the blocks in the half-lap sprint and lowered his previous world best by 38 hundredths of a second to 21.05sec, less than a week after he won the 100m gold in 10.46sec -- also a new world record time.

He won the same double in Beijing four years ago and at the World Championships in Assen, the Netherlands, last year.

Smyth meanwhile proved himself as the fastest Paralympian in history while Du Toit's team-mate Oscar Pistorius sought to salvage his Games after two shock defeats.



Netherlands' Esther Vergeer returns against Netherlands' Aniek Van Koot.

The penultimate full day of competition in London saw a number of sports reach their conclusion, with Vergeer's title never destined for anyone else given her remarkable winning streak in singles that stretches back to 2003.

"I know the day I will lose

"I walk away with absolutely no regrets. I look back and I think I gave everything. No matter what emotions you go through I gave everything in the pool, everything as a person and I'm satisfied."

The Cape Town swimmer's



Ireland's Jason Smyth (C) crosses the line to win gold ahead of Russia's Alexander Zverev (L) and Cuba's Luis Felipe Gutierrez (R) in the men's 200m - T13 final

will come but I don't know when," the 31-year-old said after beating compatriot Aniek van Koot 6-0, 6-3 on the blue hardcourts of Eton Manor to take the title for the fourth time in a row.

Smyth's victory came before Pistorius went in the heats of the T44 400m for single and double below-the-knee amputees, which as the only athlete in the field who has run under 50sec, he is expected to win.

At the pool, 13-time Paralympic gold medallist du Toit broke down in tears after winning silver in the S9 100m freestyle behind Australia's Ellie Cole.

"It's all over," said the 28-year-old Du Toit, who was a promising non-disabled swimmer until 2001 when she had her left leg amputated below the knee after a scooter accident.

story of courage in the face of a major setback has inspired millions.

Former US Navy lieutenant Brad Snyder is doing likewise, as he won the men's S11 400m freestyle gold for blind and visually impaired swimmers -- exactly a year to the day since he was blinded on the battlefields of Afghanistan.

In cycling, more road medals were decided at the Brands Hatch motor racing circuit in southeast England, with another gold for former Formula One and Indy car driver Alessandro Zanardi.

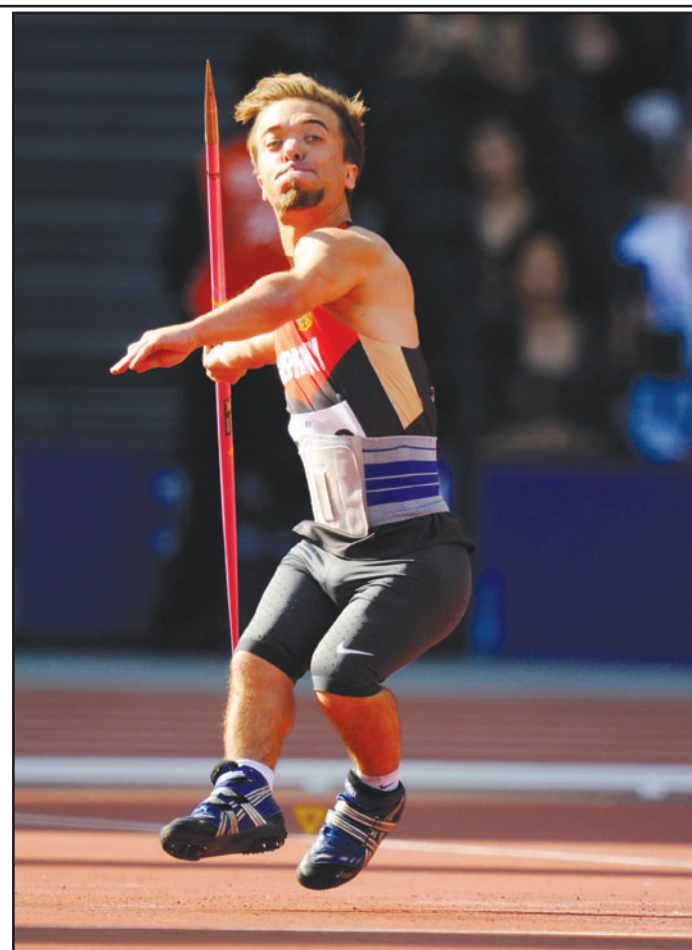
Zanardi, 45, who had both legs amputated after a horror smash in 2001, took the men's H4 time-trial over 16 kilometres on Wednesday and followed it up on Friday by taking the 64km road race in a thrilling sprint finish.



Russia's Oxana Savchenko celebrates victory in the women's 50m freestyle S12 swimming final.



Japan's Akiko Adachi blocks the ball during the women's goalball gold medal final between Japan and China, Japan beat China 1-0.



Germany's Mathias Mester competes in the men's javelin F40 Final.



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Tennis: Azarenka beats Sharapova to reach US Open final



NEW YORK (AFP) - World No. 1 Victoria Azarenka, the reigning Australian Open champion, advanced to the US Open women's final by defeating Russian third seed Maria Sharapova 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 yesterday.

In today's final, Azarenka will play the winner of a later semi-final between Italian 10th seed Sara Errani and US fourth seed Serena Williams, a 14-time Grand Slam champion who seeks her fourth US Open title.

In a rematch of the Australian Open final where she beat Sharapova to win her first Grand Slam title, the 23-year-old from Belarus moved one victory shy of becoming the first top seed to win the US

Open since Justine Henin in 2007.

This is the first time a US Open women's final four has included the year's prior Grand Slam champions -- Azarenka, Wimbledon and Olympic winner Williams and Sharapova, who completed a career Grand Slam with her Roland Garros title.

Azarenka improved to 12-0 in three-set matches this season while inflicting Sharapova's first three-set defeat in 13 such matches in 2012.

An extra-long break before the third set for excessive heat helped build the drama at Arthur Ashe Stadium, Azarenka practicing with the help of a ball boy as Sharapova went off the court to cool off after dropping the second set.

Sharapova fought off two break points in the fourth game, battled nearly 10 minutes to hold in the sixth but finally surrendered her serve in the final game to fall after two hours and 42 minutes.

No top seed has won any Grand Slam crown since Serena Williams in 2010 at Wimbledon.

Azarenka, who will remain World No. 1 next week no matter who wins the US Open, had never been beyond the fourth round in New York until this year but will play for her fifth title of the year and the 13th of her career.

Sharapova, who will rise to World No. 2 in next week's rankings, has not reached a US Open final since winning the title in 2006 and failed to become the first woman to reach three Slam finals in the same year since 2006.

Sharapova broke in the second game of the opening set and broke again at love for a 5-1 edge, but back-to-back double faults when she was two points from the set handed Azarenka a break and a lifeline.

Azarenka held and had two chances to break Sharapova in the ninth game before the Russian found her form and captured five of the final six points, taking the set in 40 minutes with her first ace, a 107-mph blast up the middle.

Sharapova, 25, double faulted away a break to hand the ponytailed top seed a 3-1 lead in the second set and Azarenka broke again in the last game to force a third set.

Athletics: Parents sue US Olympic gold medalist

CLEVELAND (AFP) - The parents of Olympic gold medalist Tianna Madison have sued the US track star, saying she spread stories they were out for their own interest and tormented and cheated her out of money.

Robert and Jo Ann Madison filed the libel, slander and defamation lawsuit Thursday in an Ohio court.

Tianna Madison was on the winning 4x100-metre relay track team at the London Olympics. She won the gold with Allyson Felix, Bianca Knight and Carmelita Jeter in world record time. The lawsuit also names her husband John Bartoletta.

Madison's parents' are seeking more than \$25,000 each in damages.

They said in the suit they have been loving and supportive parents.

Golf: US golfer shot after ball smashes window

RENO (AFP) - A Nevada golfer was shot and wounded after his stray ball struck a home, smashing a window and angering the resident inside.

Police arrested a man in connection with the shooting which allegedly took place on the 16th hole of the Reno area golf club.

Jeff Fleming, 53, is charged with battery and assault with a deadly weapon in the incident at the Lakeridge Golf course.

Police said a man exited his home on Thursday after one of his windows was broken and approached two golfers with a shotgun before the alleged shooting took place. The other was not in-

jured.

The injured golfer was treated and released from hospital.

Law enforcement officials also evacuated the golf course after the shooting.

Fleming, who turned himself in, was released on bail.

A entrenched gun culture and lax firearm laws have contributed to a series of mass shootings in America over the past few years.

A Bill Clinton-era federal ban on assault weapons was also allowed to expire in 2004.

On July 20, 12 people were killed and 58 injured when a gunman opened fire at a Colorado movie theatre during a midnight showing of

the latest Batman movie "The Dark Knight Rises".

In 2004, there were 29,500 people killed by guns in the United States of which 40 percent (11,600) were homicides.

About 150 people are killed on average annually by handguns in Canada and less than 40 in Japan.



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Golf: Storm takes halfway lead at KLM Open



HILVERSUM (AFP) - Graeme Storm took a three-shot lead at the halfway stage of the European Tour's KLM Open at Hilversum yesterday, following up his opening round of 63 with a 66.

The Englishman ended the day at 11 under, three clear of Scott Jamieson, Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano and Peter Hanson.

Hanson was one of three European Ryder Cup players in the field and in contention. Nicolas Colsaerts shot 65 to reach five under, while Martin Kaymer -- the winner here in 2010 -- is a shot further back.

Although he is eager to secure a second European Tour title, Storm admits his primary focus remains securing a top-115 finish in The Race to Dubai after a disappointing season so far.

He currently lies 114th, with the closing stages of the season fast approaching.

"It is a big struggle missing so many cuts," he said of his poor run of form.

"I played nicely last week (en route to a share of 41st place in the European Masters) and I was hoping to bring it here. At the moment I am and I just hope it continues.

Together with Belgium's Colsaerts, Spain's Fernandez-Castano was the pick of the morning starters, carding four birdies and an eagle either side of a solitary dropped shot.

Swede Hanson made solid progress in a second successive 66, mixing 15 pars with two birdies and an eagle at the par-five 12th.

Jamieson, who started at the tenth, roared into contention after picking up six shots in the first 10 holes of his round, but lost his outright hold on second with a bogey at the sixth.

Pablo Larrazabal of Spain and India's Shiv Kapur shared fifth, two behind the second placed trio, while Ireland's Simon Thornton finished with an eagle to match Jamieson's 64 and move into the group at five under.

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Athletics: Bolt rounds off amazing season with victory



Usain Bolt celebrates after winning the men's 100m during the Memorial Ivo Van Damme Diamond League meeting, in Brussels yesterday.

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Jamaican sprint sensation Usain Bolt overcame a terrible start to round off his season with a victory in 9.86sec in the 100m at the Diamond League meet here on yesterday.

Bolt's reaction time out of the blocks left him chasing St

Kitts and Nevis veteran Kim Collins in front of a packed King Baudouin Stadium.

Fresh from claiming a second successive treble gold medal haul at the London Olympics, Bolt's pick-up was also slack, but his trademark strong drive phase saw him

surge past the rest of the field.

The towering Jamaican even had enough room to ease up a full 10 metres from the line before quickly undoing the laces of his spikes and hurling them into the crowd.

Bolt's compatriots Nesta Carter (9.96) and Kemar Bailey Cole (9.97) finished in second and third positions.

"I'm just happy to have got through the season," said Bolt. "The key coming here was for the fans and just to get through injury free. "Mentally you've got to be in the game. The Olympics are a big stage and you don't want to make mistakes so you push yourself mentally and physically, and at the end of the season, the level goes down fast."

Bolt played down fears that he would be overwhelmed by his return to Jamaica after his amazing season.

"When I'm at home, I'm al-

ways at home, chilling. Over time it (the attention) will calm down, I'll be alright," said the Jamaican, who was to play a DJ gig in the Belgian capital before leaving Europe.

Bolt's training partner Yohan Blake, double sprint silver medallist in London, failed to upstage the master, also coached by Glen Mills.

Blake, who has not raced Bolt since the London Games, was eyeing Bolt's world record of 19.19sec in the 200m, having previously run 19.26sec on this track.

After nailing the bend, Blake faded slightly at the bell to win in 19.54sec, still the ninth fastest time in history.

The stage had been set for Bolt and Blake's exploits by Olympic champion Aries Merritt of the United States, who clocked a stunning world record of 12.80sec to win the 110m hurdles.

Merritt smashed the previous record of 12.87sec set by Cuban Dayron Robles in June 2008 in Ostrava, Czech Republic.

"I was just trying to get under 13sec to cap off a good season," said Merritt. "I can't believe I ran that fast!"

Merritt added: "I'm finally living up to my potential after a lot of injuries... with people telling me to go and get a proper job."

The 27-year-old Merritt, who ran 12.92sec to win the Olympic title in London, bolted out of the blocks and by the fourth hurdle was ahead of the strong field.

Fellow American Jason Richardson finished second in 13.05sec, with Jamaican Hansle Parchment completing the podium in 13.14sec, to mirror the medal positions from the London Games last month.